

STORY OF CHRISTMAS

There Are Many Happy Hearts
All Over the Broad Land
This Morning.

THE SPIRIT OF HAPPINESS

It Is Now All-Pervading—Cele-
brations of the Anniversary
That Have Been Planned.

In whatever raiment clad, sunshiny or shadow, the Christmas that dawned with the morning will be to the people of Richmond the joy and the blessing that it has ever proven in the past and will ever continue in the future.

Overhanging and sometimes dripping clouds served somewhat to dampen the festivities of the holiday eve, but wind nor rain could have entirely subjected the convivial spirit that was most manifestly abroad in the land. Through a dull and drizzly day that came discouragingly at the end of a period of almost springtime pleasantness the people of the city waited and waited until nightfall. About 7 o'clock in the evening the showers ceased, at least temporarily, and a half-dimmed moon cast a few feeble rays of light across the sky. A solitary star appeared and for a time shone like a beacon that augured well for the morrow's weather. By this time already the streets were beginning to fill up, and for the next few hours the ante-Christmas celebration ran riot. Not until midnight did it cease, and hardly then. The weather was then not of the best, but small heed was paid to the weather.

BUSINESS IS SUSPENDED.

This morning all is peace and quiet, where so short a while ago ruled the mad holiday fele. The Christmas itself is here, and the entire city responds to its presence in the joy and ancient fashion that is the vogue.

The business streets are silent and tenacious. Scarce an office is open; all State, city and Federal departments are closed; Cary Street, the scene of a daily battle, is like a grave yard; for square after square in all the down town thoroughfares staring panes of glass gaze blankly from the usually busy houses. So with Broad Street, so lately the haven of the holiday shopper. Quiet now are the streets, where but a few hours before the crowds thronged, the dollars passed and passed. All is quiet and peace and order. There is no work, no worry this day for the weary man. At home, in the bosom of his family, he celebrates with them the greatest festival of all the year, even the Yuletide.

SANTA CLAUS PRESENTS.

With the sun rose also the children of the city, called from the comfortable pillows by the irresistible curiosity, the mysterious and elusive person of Santa Claus always arouses. During the silent and shadowy hours of the early Christmas morn the old father of the festival speeds through the land, dispensing with a liberal hand from the inexhaustible bag slung across his shoulder. Hardly has the jingle of his reindeer's bells died away before shining eyes, eloquent with curiosity and expectation, peep from beneath the cautiously raised covers, and soon the little red or white head peering across an icy floor to the hood that glitters from the nearby table or tree.

This morning many such scenes as this are being enacted. In every household, large or small, there is some evidence of a visit from Santa, and Christmas trees and full stockings are for every one.

This is the work of the day—the inspection by the children of their yearly storehouse of good things. Soon after the distribution of presents in the household and in the immediate neighborhood will begin—if it has not already been accomplished on the evening before. It is a blessing to the children, the source of the merriment that warms the heart of a happy all. Christmas without this gift-giving would be no Christmas at all. It is a feature that can never die out, and who is the man who hopes it may?

CHRISTMAS SERVICES.

The morning chimes will call the people of the city to the churches, where the customary Christmas services will be held. Many of the churches have been decorated in beautiful flowers and evergreens. Eloquent sermons will tell of the story of the new-born Christ and the choir with one voice will sing the joyous carols of the Christmas time. In all the Catholic and Episcopal churches services will be held. At St. Peter's Cathedral there will be six masses, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 o'clock. The last will be a magnificent solemn high mass, with Bishop Van de Vyver as celebrant. The Christmas sermon will be preached by the Rev. Cyril De Myrnick. The officers of the mass will be as follows: Assistant, Bishop; Very Rev. J. T. Bowler, deacon of honor to the bishop; the Rev. John McVerry, of St. Patrick's, and the Rev. Charles F. Hannigan, of St. Joseph's Church; deacon of the mass, the Rev. Cyril De Myrnick; subdeacon, the Rev. John J. Massey, of Sacred Heart Church.

At the end of the mass the Right Rev. Bishop Van de Vyver will impart the apostolic benediction to all those present. The Christmas music, directed by Miss Nina Randolph, the organist, will be repeated next Sunday at the 11 o'clock high mass. The Methodist churches have arranged for two union services at 11 A. M. One at St. James, the other at St. Paul, to be delivered by the Rev. Dr. W. J. Young, of Centenary, and the other, at the same hour, in Clay Street Church, the Rev. R. M. Maxey, of Union Station, to preach. Religious services will be held in Very Rev. J. T. Bowler, deacon of honor to the bishop; the Rev. John McVerry, of St. Patrick's, and the Rev. Charles F. Hannigan, of St. Joseph's Church; deacon of the mass, the Rev. Cyril De Myrnick; subdeacon, the Rev. John J. Massey, of Sacred Heart Church.

SOME ENTERTAINMENTS.

The Christmas season is always made the occasion for special work among the poor of the city. Basket loaded with

Christmas-tide

With cross and
star, with wreath
and spray
With holly branches
berries bright
Now comes the
joyous Christmas
day
Its dawn aglow
with holy
light

De cheered, each
weary aching
heart,
De brave and
trust, all ye
distressed,
The living Christ
has set apart,
His natal day
that ye be
blessed.

De gentle in
your daily deeds,
To thine own
self be fair and
true
A helping hand
to each who
needs
As he who died
for all, helped
you

In every land,
through every
clime,
Of high degree
or lowly birth,
Sing loud the
wondrous
Christmas chime,
"A son is born,
Be peace on
earth."

H.C.



good things will be carried or sent to many homes. The clubhouses, hospitals, jails, etc., will all have special dinners. The Methodist Institute will serve breakfast to all the homeless men of the city, to be followed at a late date by a great dinner to the poor.

A great feature of Christmas is always the Sunday school entertainments. Among those that are to occur are the following:

Methodist Orphanage, West Broad Street, Monday, 4 P. M. The orphanage children will give the cantata, "An Old-Time Christmas Party," and the ladies of the Park Place, Centenary and Clay Street Methodist Episcopal churches will provide gifts for the boys and girls.

Male Orphan Asylum, Mrs. J. R. Gill, superintendent, Tuesday, the 29th, at 4 P. M. Annual visit of Santa Claus to the boys of the asylum.

Broad Street Methodist Sunday school, Tuesday, 8 P. M. Under the direction of Mrs. G. M. Smith, the children, assisted by Santa Claus, will give the cantata, "Santa Claus' Dream."

Church of the Holy Comforter, January 1st, 8 P. M. Santa Claus will spend the evening with the members and friends of the Sunday school.

Other entertainments planned for the holidays include "Good Cheer," for the inmates of the Almshouse, Monday night, December 28th, at 8 o'clock. Superintendent George B. Davis has obtained the promised help of some of the leading talent of the city.

Tuesday, December 29th, Christmas entertainment of the West View Baptist Sunday school.

THE CUSTOM-HOUSE.

How the United States Officials Are to Spend To-day.

Colonel Will G. Beach, of Indianapolis, Ind., for several years in the employ of the United States Internal Revenue Department, as revenue agent, has returned to Richmond, where early in the new year he will go into business for himself. He has not yet announced his plans in further detail. Colonel Beach is well known in Richmond, where he has frequently been on official business, and is very generally esteemed.

United States Marshal Morgan Trent will spend the day quietly at his elegant home at West Point. He was suffering severely as a result of a cold yesterday, and announced that he would spend the day indoors in the effort to cure that.

Deputy Marshal Samuel Bendit has returned from Atlanta, whither he went to convey Charles F. Malatesta, the white-baiter, convicted of personating a Federal official and obtaining money by such representations. The man was given a year in the Federal prison.

Collector of Internal Revenue Asa Rogers will spend the Christmas at home. All the office force will observe the holiday quietly at their homes.

Collector of Customs Stewart was sitting quietly at his desk in the Federal

building yesterday, and announced to the reporter that he would be found there to-day also.

The clerk's office force in the Federal building will take the day off. Clerk Brady will spend the day at his home here.

In the postoffice everybody was too busy to talk to reporters. In the registry and money order department the entire force has been busy for a week, and yesterday the business was heavier than usual. At the stamp window it was stated that the business of the office was fully up to last year. Both the incoming and outgoing mails were very heavy yesterday, and that coming in will continue so for several days or until the congestion of Christmas parcels has been overcome. The usual holiday hours and deliveries will be observed to-day, the office being open for delivery at the carrier's window as usual on holidays.

In the revenue department all the force are busy closing up the year's business and figuring up results. The force in this department is an excellent one, as attested by the inspections of the revenue agents from time to time.

Christmas Day Thoughts.

By G. Grosvenor Dowe.

It matters not if all our reverence for the manger-bed and the Child is crushed over with formal and ceremonial ideas, these are but emblems of the conquering power embodied in that lowly birth and pure life. The Child, the Christ, is the work of the silent night and its mysterious darkness, so these poetic forms of the season that commemorates the light of the dawning of a new and wonderful world. The vision then given to the souls of men has spread in its might and its light, until the dark gropings of human thought have been brought to an end and led to memory except for these shadowy forms and ceremonies of the past, that live to proclaim their own conquest.

Why is Christmas-tide so dear to all of us? Because in its simple elements it touches the heart of all of us, particularly those who are poor in this world's goods, or who suffer distresses, or who are confused at the buffetings of an unkind world. There is the mother, sheltered no better than an outcast might be, resting more peacefully among the lowly creatures of the stable than in the dumb sympathy of the brutes, who groan and travel in man's service, who find her anguish to be turned to joy.

This little one in its weakness speaks to every heart that loves a child, and His later growth in stature and in favor with God and man hold forth, before those who love children, the promise of what a perfect childhood can be in the world, through a lowly stable in little Bethlehem that night.

In all ages before, the puzzled mind of man had been endeavoring to understand a cause or a maker through the clouds and the stars and the winds, until he gave God-name to every phenomenon, and found in his puzzling that evil powers could destroy good, and hence he worshipped evil deities as well as good.

all of them children of his own mind and

invented to explain the mysteries of natural life as he saw it around him.

Into the unsolved mystery of the universe came The Child, and from that moment the race had light. It was but faint and glimmering in His day; sometimes it has in its history seemed almost quenched, even as a bright dawning can become overcast and cloudy, as though night had again been summoned before day had well begun. But the life-power of the light has gone on and conquered all opposing powers, till the broader day is ours, more full of light than ever day has yet been, and yet ever come to all the world. This light, dawning in Bethlehem, was the knowledge that God was not a mysterious creature of the thickets, or of the mountains, or of the sea, or of the people, but that He was Lord over all, blessed forever, Father in spirit and in fact of every living creature, maker and upholder of the universe, not narrowed to one place, not worshipped in temples made with hands, but everywhere pervading, life-giving, uplifting, protecting, guiding the souls of men forward to a greater and never ending destiny. This was the message of light and truth that came to the world through the infant Jesus.

His message revealed the Fatherhood of God, and the idea, whatever and where, of less clear ideas, for if God be indeed the Father, then the gospel of Christ is more than a pointing of the finger towards eternity, as if we would flee from this world as an evil thing; it has also the power to teach men to live together as brethren; to feel as brethren, to suffer for one another, and to give up the life, duty towards God also a duty towards man.

In Christmas, therefore, we joyously commemorate a birth that has changed the world and changed its ideals, and that, in its simple, majestic power, is bound to move forward year by year, bringing more order out of chaos, more peace among men, more good will, more attention to great hearts, to speak glad tidings of great joy to those who have a narrow, fearful thought of God the Father. Christmas brings joy, therefore, because it speaks of the emancipation of man's mind, because it speaks of light and hope, and because it makes us understand a reason for our being, every being with reason having involved in his duty towards God also a duty towards man.

"Christmas Comin' Soon."

Possam sittin' up de simmon tree;
Christmas comin' soon.

He winked at me en I winked at him,
Christmas comin' soon.

Sez I Mister Possam don't you mek no
face,
I gwine ter leave you here in de fattenin'
time.

But I'm comin' by en bye, en ten yo ease,
For Christmas comin' soon.

Turkey sittin' on de crooked limb,
Christmas comin' soon.

I'm comin' by en bye en profile wid him,
Christmas comin' soon.

He git so fat dat his skin turn blue,
An de white folks think dat he will do,
An dis ole colored man think so, too,
For Christmas comin' soon.

My coon dawg barkin' lek his heart would
break,
Christmas comin' soon.

I clembs dat tree, en dat him I shake,
Christmas comin' soon.

Ole dawg settin' on de groun below,

Dat coon wont hop over his soul no
mo',
For he's done gone to de udder sho',
Christmas comin' soon.

I gwine hang me stockin' on de cabins
wall,
Christmas comin' soon.

So 'traid ole Santay wont come at all,
Christmas comin' soon.

De good Lawd whisper when I dream
at night,
Wake up sleeper, for de day git light.

En yank dat turkey fum de white man's
sight,
Christmas comin' soon.

I'll be settin' by en by at de banquet
bode,
Christmas comin' soon.

Offin up thanks to de lovin' Lawd,
Christmas comin' soon.

Gwine tek dat possum in cyarve de bone,
Po' dat gravy on de ole cawn pone,
Eaten dat turkey what de white man
meat,
Christmas comin' soon.

J. M. BELL.

JUDGE B. R. WELLFORD, JR., PRESENTED WITH CHAIN

Judge B. R. Wellford, Jr., of the Circuit Court, who will voluntarily retire from the bench on February 1st, 1904, was given a handsome Christmas present by the jury and officers of his court yesterday in the shape of a fine Morris chair. There were no speeches upon the occasion, the present being sent to Judge Wellford's residence with a letter expressing the high esteem in which he is held by the jury.

MR. McCABE HERE.

Son of Colonel McCabe Back From Montana for a Month.

Mr. E. R. Warner McCabe, son of Col. W. Gordon McCabe, the distinguished educator and author of this city, is at home from Montana to spend a month with his father and mother.

Mr. McCabe spent three or four years in the Philippines, but returned several months ago, and since that time has been stationed in Montana. Colonel and Mrs. McCabe are delighted to have their son with them at this happy season.

Bishop—Presson.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) ADAMS GROVE, VA., Dec. 24.—A pretty home wedding was celebrated near here at 3 P. M. yesterday. The contracting parties were Mr. T. G. Bishop and Miss Anna A. Presson.

The groom is a resident of Greensville county, and the bride the eldest daughter of the late John Presson, formerly a well-known citizen of Southampton. The event was quiet, owing to the death of the bride's mother a short while ago.

After the marriage Mr. and Mrs. Bishop left for the groom's home, at Emporia, Va. K. K. Grizzard, of the Baptist Church, was the officiating minister.

Judge Mann Speaks.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) ROANOKE, VA., Dec. 24.—Judge William H. Mann made an address here to-night in Assembly Hall, under the auspices of the Anti-Slavery League. He made a fine address and was much appreciated.

Christmas Greeting

We extend to our Patrons and the public of this city and State our heartiest congratulations on this felicitous occasion, and we hope that every one of them will spend a most delightful Christmas day, and receive all the presents that they anticipated.

For the coming year we wish them all the joy and success that can possibly be contained in a twelve-month.

We have enjoyed a most liberal patronage; in truth, our business has far exceeded our most sanguine expectations and has been greater than any previous year in the history of our firm.

We appreciate the confidence reposed in us, and

Will Make Every Effort To Afford Even Greater Facilities

to supply their demands in the future.

If you have overlooked a friend who should have a Christmas remembrance from you, come to our store and we will provide the article that you want.

THALHIMER'S, Fifth and Broad Streets.

YULETIDE INCIDENTS

Scenes Joyous or Pathetic That
Have Marked the Holiday
Season.

MANY GIFTS ARE PRESENTED

Manager of Cable Piano Company and Others in Authority Are Remembered.

Nowhere is the evidence of Christmas shopping more conspicuous than on the street cars, which are hauling passengers, baggage and express in about equal quantities. Naturally the delays at up-town corners in taking shoppers with their bundles on and off demoralizes the schedule and make the life of a conductor a burden. Yesterday one lady boarded a Main Street car with so many bundles that it required two men to help her on with the parcels and boxes, which were of every size and description. Delay is unavoidable under such conditions. The newsboys are having the Christmas box fad in great shape. With hands of miniature children poking a paper at the passer by, while with the other he extends a Christmas box and solicits a contribution. They were swarming on Main Street yesterday afternoon, but apparently there was little doing in the contribution line. Some of the boys followed pedestrians with their importunities.

The waitresses at the restaurants were in many cases well remembered by their regular diners. One of the young ladies was very proud of a tiny little gold and enamel watch given her by four of those upon whom she is accustomed to wait. All of the Kirkwood party will be given a holiday to-day.

PATHETIC SCENE.

The Christmas crowds on Broad Street surge on in their mad search for something for their loved ones, hardly seeing and seldom heeding the little ones who wander along gazing wistfully into the windows of the toy shops and the confectionery stores. As the crowd hurries by the doleful strains of the street alms-seekers' organs and mule boxes are heard. Yesterday afternoon slowly walking up and down Main Street was a blind musician blowing plaintive airs on a flute. Back and forth he went, telling in his music the story of his sorrow, of the blindness which shuts out from his vision all the glad sights of the holiday. This was something inexpressibly pathetic in the scene, but the passers-by were in too big a hurry to moralize or philosophize on the blessings of sight and the affliction of blindness.

Brooklynick will rest his weary frame in a luxurious Morris chair and indulge in pleasant thoughts of the boys who testified their esteem so handsomely.

EVIDENCE OF DISTRESS. Engineer of Maintenance of Way of the Passenger and Power Company Calvin Whiteley, Jr., was remembered by his force yesterday with a handsome silver cigarette case and a thousand cigarettes.

Councilman J. M. N. Alma made the presentation, and Mr. Whiteley accepted with a cordial expression of appreciation. Lino Superintendent Herman Pollard, of the Passenger and Power Company, was yesterday presented a ten dollar gold piece, and the blue ribbon for keeping the cleanest cars in this city or Manchester. The award was made by General Superintendent C. B. Buchanan, and was given after a careful consideration of the very warm courtesies.

Special efforts are being made to keep the cars clean and comfortable, and this offer was in the nature of an inducement.

Mr. Mathew F. Dunn, foreman of the Hasker-Branch of the American Can Company, was the recipient of a handsome Christmas remembrance Wednesday night, presented by the employee of that department, General Manager J.

S. Clarke made the presentation and Mr. Dunn, who was much touched by this generous expression of regard, acknowledged the gift in earnest and sincere expressions of appreciation.

CABLE PIANO COMPANY. The love and esteem of all connected with the Cable Piano Company for the genial manager, Mr. J. G. Corley, was shown yesterday in a most substantial manner, when the Virginia and North Carolina salesmen and the office force presented both Mr. and Mrs. Corley with exceedingly handsome and useful articles.

The gifts to Mr. Corley consisted of a traveling bag equipment, with toilet articles, a hat box, a cane and a lap robe, while Mrs. Corley received a tasteful set of individual butter dishes and butter knives.

The presentation address was made by Mr. Philip R. Norman in the happiest manner and language, while the response of Mr. Corley was equally graceful, and showed how greatly he appreciated the spirit shown by the handsome gifts.

FOREMAN REMEMBERED.

The young ladies and gentlemen employed in the finishing department of the Hasker and Marcus branch of the American Can Company last evening presented their esteemed foreman, Mr. Matthew F. Dunn, with a beautiful silver shaving set and clothes brush. Mr. E. S. Clarke, the popular general manager, on behalf of the donors, made the presentation in a brief, but chaste and elegant, speech.

Mr. Dunn was quite overcome by this substantial token of regard, and returned his grateful thanks in a feeling and appropriate manner, wishing all a merry Christmas and many returns of the glorious festival.

HANDSOME SILVER SERVICE.

The composing room of The Times-Dispatch was the scene of one of the pleasant incidents in the history of the paper last night, and certainly one of the pleasantest in the life of Mr. W. A. Jacob, the veteran foreman of the mechanical department, who was made the recipient of a handsome testimonial of the esteem of the men in the office. It was the presentation of the silver service by the machine operators, compositors and make-up men of a beautiful silver tea service, which embraced urn, cream pitcher, sugar bowl and handsomely engraved tray.

At lunch hour the men as if with one accord filed into the composing room and stood around while the silver service was being summoned. It was a silent, ominous looking crowd, and the foreman must have been somewhat alarmed by the formidable gathering. His apprehensions were soon dispelled, however, for Mr. C. P. Harwood stepped forward and in graceful and appropriate phrases presented the beautiful gift. In doing so he paid a handsome tribute to Mr. Jacob, referring to his consideration for the men and his regard for their interests and welfare on all occasions, and added that in token of their appreciation the men desired him to accept of the substantial expression. In conclusion Mr. Harwood, speaking for his fellows as well as himself, expressed the wish that the foreman might have a happy Christmas and long life and prosperity.

Mr. Jacob was very much touched by the handsome and wholly unexpected presentation, and in his voice his deep feeling. Nevertheless he managed to express in simple, earnest and sincere language his deep appreciation, both of the gift and the kindly feelings it attested.

The entire service is a handsome array of silverware, one of the handsomest that Schwarzhild had in stock, and is a present of which any man might well be proud, aside from the sentimental value of it.

SILVER FOR JR. CECIL.

The officers of the Second Presbyterian Church, of this city, last night presented to the Rev. Dr. Russell Cecil, the distinguished and beloved pastor of the congregation, a handsome chest of silver. The present is an unusually beautiful one, and it is highly appreciated by Dr. and Mrs. Cecil.

The street railway employees of the Richmond and Main Street line yesterday presented to Superintendent W. S. Brightwell a handsome Morris chair, as a Christmas present, and as an evidence of their appreciation of him and their affection and esteem. Handsome merrymaking cheer holders were given the dispatchers, Messrs. Lee and Anderson, by the men.

For the Orphans.

Mrs. T. William Pemberton, president of the Loving Circle, King's Daughters, yesterday sent to the Main Orphan Asylum two boxes well filled with good things. They will be heartily enjoyed to-day.

WOODWARD & SON.

WOOD LUMBER.
NINTH AND ARCH STS.